

February 26, 2002

IT-MC-CK10-0183
Project No. 796887

Mr. Ellis Pope
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Attn: CESAM-EN-GE (Pope)
109 St. Joseph Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Contract: **Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018/CK10**
 Fort McClellan, Alabama

Subject: **Site Investigation at the Impact Area for Parcels 103Q and 88Q**

Dear Mr. Pope:

This letter report serves to document the site investigation (SI) activities conducted at the Impact Area for Parcels 103Q and 88Q located at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The impact area is a portion of Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 103Q, and Range 30: End-of-Cycle Test Range, Parcel 88Q, as defined in the Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS), conducted by Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE, 1998). Parcel 88Q was also known as Range 30: Confidence Course (ESE, 1998).

Parcels 103Q and 88Q are located in the northern part of the Main Post of FTMC, southeast of Reilly Airfield (Figure 1). Parcel 103Q is approximately 25 acres and Parcel 88Q is roughly 545 acres including the range safety fan. The portions of Parcels 103Q and 88Q that are the subject of this SI occupy approximately 40 acres. The area of investigation is bounded to the north by an unpaved road that travels east off of Falcon Road and bisects Parcel 231(7). The southern limit is bounded by an unpaved road oriented southwest-northeast near the top of an unnamed hillside (Figure 2).

A 1937 aerial photograph reveals a clearing in the area occupied by Parcel 103Q. Exact dates of use and ordnance used are not described in the EBS. Archive Search Report (ASR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], 1999) plates show activity in this area as early as World War I. The ASR identifies the area as OA-08, or, during subsequent years, by one of the following names: Tank Sub-Caliber Range, Carbine Transition Range (R-32), and/or Machine Gun Range (R-34) (USACE, 1999).

Range 30 (Parcel 88Q) was used from 1977 to sometime between 1983 and 1989 at which time the range was inactivated. Explosive materials fired at this range included M-16 blanks, flares, and simulators. Historically, M-60 machine guns and .30-caliber ordnance were used. Range 30 was also used for end-of-cycle training but has not been used since the mid to late 1980s. End-of-cycle tests were the last phase of basic training prior to graduation.

Mr. Pope
-Page 2-

Based on the location of Reilly Airfield to the northwest, the position of the Range 30 (Parcel 88Q) firing line, and the orientation of the range fan presented in the EBS, the direction of fire for Range 30 would have been to the southeast toward the unnamed hillside. The EBS does not depict an impact area for Parcel 88Q firing activities. However, the impact area for Parcel 103Q is identified in the EBS. Parcel 103Q overlaps Parcel 88Q for most of the area covered in this investigation.

The ground surface of the area of investigation slopes to the northwest. Ground elevation ranges from approximately 750 feet above mean sea level (msl), in the relatively flat portion of the range near the dirt road, to approximately 1,050 feet msl, at the peak of the unnamed hill used as the backstop for range activities. Surface drainage is to the northwest, crossing Falcon Road and eventually emptying into Reilly Lake.

IT personnel conducted a site walk at the Impact Area for Parcels 103Q and 88Q in October 2001. Numerous bullet fragments were observed over much of the area and were concentrated along the slope and base of the hillside. Surface soils at the impact area are expected to be contaminated with metals, particularly lead. As a result of this observation, no environmental samples were collected as part of the SI. Therefore, IT recommends that the Army conduct an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) at the Impact Area for Parcels 103Q and 88Q to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The EE/CA would identify and evaluate remedial action alternatives and recommend one alternative for the site.

At your request, I have distributed copies of this letter report as indicated below. If you have questions, or need further information, please contact me at (770) 663-1429 or Steve Moran at (865) 694-7361.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Yacoub, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachments

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